clared King and Queen of England.

Now, if the act of an illegal convention

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

A Piece of Political Legerdemain. The Democratic Alliance of New York, so called, is really and regularly Demoeratic. It is not ashamed of the Chicago only standard of Democratic doctrine.

This Alliance wants Tammany Hall to be Democratic also, but Tammany is afraid of the goldbugs. It may be all well enough to wave the Chicago standard in the Bowerv or Avenue C, but to attempt to flaunt it on Fifth avenue before the Manhattan Club would exasperate the goldbugs, and they wouldn't vote the Tammany ticket, Mr. Sheehan, representing Tammany, is accordingly much embarrassed by the demands and protests of the Democratic Alliance. With the Chicago platform Tammany will lose the goldbugs; without it, the Bryanites will revolt.

The latest information is that he has decided to whip the devil around the stump by expurgating and disinfecting the Chicago platform so as to remove all chances of its offending the sensibilities of the goldbugs. The mystic words "16 to 1" are not to be spoken. The income tax plank may also be removed as being naturally offensive to goldbugs; yet it is not an invention of Bryanism, but was carried over to Bry anism from Clevelandism. The socialistic planks, however, are not to be disturbed for it is hoped that the goldbugs will re gard them as mere buncombe.

The Bryanites think they have won so far as the candidate for Mayor is concerned They profess to be confident that he will be a square Bryanite, and any weakness in the timbers of the platform will be offset by his regularity.

Well, let us see how the trick will be played at the Tammany convention next Thursday evening. The trouble about it will be that everybody will have seen through it beforehand, but it will be amus, out the stockholders, which was done ing to watch the game. The feat is to be Democratic, yet not to be Democratic; to The United Gas Improvement Company, the yellow lustre of gold on one side and with a silvery sheen on the other, and to arrange with goldbugs and Bryanites that each shall pretend to see only the side they prefer. It is a difficult piece of political legerdemain, and we are somewhat curious to see how charlatanry will handle it.

A Unifying Candidate.

The nomination of Gen. TRACY by the Republican City Convention on Tuesday evening will settle finally the question who is to be the "unifying force among the friends of good government."

It will not be necessary, nor even advisable, to arrange any formal fusion. As it was last November so it will be next November. They will come together of themselves in support of Gen. TRACY as they came together last year in support of Major McKINLEY. As the resolution of the Hon. EDWARD MITCHELL adopted in the convention of the Twentyseventh Assembly district, on Friday evening, declared, "the character, ability, experience, and public record of Gen. BEN-JAMIN F. TRACY are sufficient guarantees, that, as Mayor of New York, his administration would command the approval of all | municipality has nothing to do with supgood citizens." Mr. MITCHELL's further declaration "that the true American citizen, irrespective of party, is unalterably opposed to personal government by executive public officers," expressed a sentiment and tersely propounded a truth held and accepted by all the friends of good government in this republic.

Gen. TRACY was a distinguished soldier of the war for the Union, and since its close he has performed conspicuous services for the republic in public office, and as a member of the bar has held and still holds a foremost place. He has been a Justice of the Court of Appeals in this State, so illustrious in the annals of jurisprudence. He was the Secretary of the Navy, in the Cabinet of President HARRISON, under whom was done so efficient work in the building of the superb new navy which now stirs the national pride and patriotism. As the President of the commission which drafted the charter of the Greater New York he is peculiarly fitted to be at the helm when that most important experiment in municipal government shall be undertaken.

Gen. TRACY is a statesman ranking with the most distinguished in America at this time, and his great legal ability and judgment give him special qualifications for that particular task. The many legal questions and complications, which will be inseparable from the initiation of the new scheme of government, call for a great lawyer as the first Mayor. A layman is not adapted to the place. Moreover, Gen. TRACY's distinction for ripeness and soundness of judgment and for remarkable administrative ability, along with his general qualifications for the office by reason of his character and special knowledge and comprehension of the system of municipal government to be established, gives him a fitmess for the place which is neither equalled nor approached by any other candidate sug-

gested on any side of politics. That is indisputable, and it is recognized and acknowledged by all parties. Pitting against Gen. TRACY such a man as SETH Low, shallow, of an untrained intellect, and of a provincial cast of mind, would be simply farcical. He would be so far out. classed that his entry in the race would be ludicrous. Low, therefore, may be dismissed from consideration. He has been weighed out. No Republican of any consequence will subject himself to the ridicule of showing his face on the platform of a public meeting called in his vain support. There may be a little longer some buzzing of Goo Goos seeking notoriety through advocating Low, but even that will cease before long, for no same community will pay the heed to it which such self-advertising

vanity needs for provender. The political situation, accordingly, has now become bright and clear for the Republican party and all the friends of good government arrayed against Tammany and Bryanism. The dust kicked up in the summer by the political guerrillas has been laid, and the path is made all the clearer for the \$150,000 to \$250,000, variously estimated, and by the apprehension that WILLIAM

advance of the regular army. Gen. TRACT will represent the great issue of Republicanism. Every citizen of New York will know exactly where he stands, and his long and illustrious public career will command universal confidence in his ability to discharge the functions of Mayor, for even his politi-

cal enemies must share in It. Where will Tammany and Bryanism be? Hiding away to escape detection for what they are, or daring to come out into the open field to fight?

Spain's Two Hundred Thousand.

Suppose that the Cuban revolt were maintained only by those guerrilla bands, largely composed of negroes, which have met with the ridicule of Spain; suppose that the Spanish troops in Cuba had won the hundred battles and fights which WEYLER has described as victories; suppose that the Spanish army in Cuba had killed as many thousands of the insurgents as are said to have fallen in combat: how can any one account for the circumstance platform, but proudly supports it as the that more Spanish troops are needed to quell the Cuban rebellion?

The statement we have repeatedly made that more than 200,000 Spanish troops were employed in Cuba, is confirmed by an official report that was printed a few days ago in the Madrid Heraldo. This document of the Ministry of War contains the following sentence:

"Between November, 1895, and May, 1897, the Government sent to Cuba 181,738 soldiers, command ed by 6,261 officers, forty of whom were Generals." Besides this expeditionary force, there

was in Cuba at the outbreak of the war an army of occupation of 21,000 men. It is thus seen that the number of Spanish troops on service against the Cuban insur-

rection has exceeded 200,000. It is doubt ful whether WEYLER could now put one-half of that number in the field. Hence it is that reinforcements from Spain are needed for the winter campaign.

Again, besides the Spanish regulars here enumerated, there are the Spanish-Cuban volunteers for the defence of Havana and other places, perhaps 20,000 of them.

Paternalism on Trial in Philadelphia

Philadelphia is the chief American city which owns its gas plant. Artificial gas as an illuminant was first made in the United States in 1806. A gas company was chartered in Baltimore in 1816 : one was chartered in Boston in 1822, and New York adopted gas for illuminating purposes in 1825. Ten years later gas was introduced into the city of Philadelphia by a private company, the municipality reserving the right, on stated terms, to buy in 1841, more than half a century ago. construct a platform which will shine with a private concern, is now seeking to get from the city a lease of its gas works, and the city authorities, after more than fifty years' experience with municipal ownership " of gas works, are desirous of disposing of them under such lease. The City Solicitor, whose position corresponds with that of Corporation Counsel in the city of New York, has sent to the Chairman of the Philadelphia Council Committee on Finance and Water an opinion to the effect that the city authorities have the right to make the lease, his conclusion being in the words following:

"In the existing condition of the law upon the en opinion, the city has the right to make a lease of its gas works if authorized by an ordinance."

At the hearing on Tuesday some facts were disclosed which show how in practical operation "municipal ownership" of gas works in Philadelphia. The area of Philadelphia is 129 square miles and the number of gas lamps in the city is 17,500. The current expenses of the Bureau of Gas amount to more than \$3,000,000 a year and the city's loss on gas amounts to about \$150,000 a year. The gas burned in Philadelphia is sold at a rate no cheaper than in some other American cities in which the plying it, and moreover, the quality of the gas furnished in Philadelphia by the city is, as all travellers can attest and all candid Philadelphians admit, inferior. Col. A. K. McClure, one of the speakers at the public hearing in Philadelphia on Tuesday, said:

"We have very had cas in Philadelphia. I doubt whether any other city in the Union has as bad gas as we have. You have lost thousands and thousand and scores of thousands, yea, hundreds of thousands of dollars in this city because your gas is unfit for use. This is a fact that none will dispute. Men have given all manner of theory, but we must look at the facts, and unless Philadelphia shall produce a better quality of gas in five years from this time, probably as much as 25, 80, or even 40 per cent. of the gas will be supplanted by electric lights. Our gas works do not pay. They are to-day a positive loss to the taxpayers of this city. They show in a year a loss of nearly a quarter of a million dollars."

The reasons assigned by Col. McClure for the failure of municipal ownership of gas works in Philadelphia are the same as are to be found generally. The gas plant is imperfect, primitive, not up to date, and insufficient for the requirements of the city. The management of the gas works instead of being in the hands of business men desiring to operate them for profit and compelled by competition to furnish the satisfactory supply at a proper rate, are under the direction of politicians of no particular knowledge on the subject and without the incentive to furnish the city with the best service possible. JOHN C. BULLITT, one of the speakers at Tuesday's meeting in advocacy of the policy of leasing the gas works, now operated under municipal ownership, to the corporation which is bidding for the lease, said :

"The private organizations who are stimulated by their interest can unquestionably secure greater em-ciency and better service in manufacturing enterprises. Another difficulty in the management of the gas works by the city is this: Judicious operation of such a large business enterprise requires that the persons managing it should be forehanded in the plant and in the preparations in reference to future business. Pipes will rust and give out. The size of pipes fitted for the business will change from time time. Extensions and expansions are required. New material and new methods are being from time to time required. All this renders inevitable the expen diture of very large sums of money. A municipal organization cannot properly meet the conditions and

contingencies of the future." In other words, as set forth in the arguments advanced by those who favor the withdrawal of the city of Philadelphia from the gas-making and gas-selling business after long experiment, it has proved to be a failure in operation, for the reason that the business is not as well conducted by public authority operating on political lines as it would or could be by a business corporation chartered by public authority and operating under public safeguard and under the competition of rivals to supply the municipal ownership of the gas plant acquired by purchase from private companies. Millions of dollars of unproductive investment are represented in the plant. The loss entailed each year upon the people of Philadelphia is from

but there is no claim or pretence of any profit while the conditions established are such, by the municipal ownership of gas, that there is no business competition against the city, which enjoys a monopoly, and the quality of gas is so poor that the city's monopoly gets less value each year through the more extended use of electricity. It is not practicable for the city to "improve" its gas works for the reason that there is no available fund out of which such improvement may be made, and if there was, the money would be disbursed not by those having familiar knowledge of the matter, experts in gas making under the most favorable conditions, but by persons having no accurate knowledge the matter whatever. Last year only \$55,000 was set aside for permanent improvements in the city's gas plant, a sum totally insufficient for the requirements of so large a city-an appropriation of thou-

sands where several million dollars might perhaps be expended to advantage in the improvement of the plant. It is under these circumstances in Philadelphia, where municipal ownership has been tried on a broad scale, and after fifty years of practical and unsatisfactory experience, that the leading and most active citizens of the city, representing both political parties and all elements of the population, are united in favoring a formal lease of the gas works to a private corporation, getting back to the original starting point, which was the supplying of gas for public uses not by the city itself, but by one or more corporations authorized to do it. One significant result of the operation in practice of the so-called "principle" of municipal ownership has been that when the director of the Philadelphia Public Works was asked to furnish on Tuesday a statement of the case for the guidance of the Council, "giving the present value of the gas works and a statement showing the assessed valuation of the buildings and grounds occupied, together with the quantity of water consumed by the gas works," he stated in answer "that he was at work on his report, and expected

to have it completed within a few days." Municipal ownership as applied to gas works in Philadelphia is not a success, and Tuesday's hearing of the application for the lease of the works illustrates this very clearly.

The Pretender to Victoria's Throne.

Few persons are aware that if the principle of primogeniture were applied to the succession of the English Crown the name of the sovereign of the United Kingdon would be, not Queen VICTORIA, but Queen MARY. It is exclusively by a Parliamentary title that the present sovereign reigns. So far as her claim to rule by right of birth is concerned, it is based upon descent from a daughter of JAMES I., and must give way, therefore, to the superior claim of another lady, who is descended from a daughter of CHARLES I. The lady to whom we refer is MARY THERESA HENRIETTA DOROTHEA, Archduchesa of Austria-Este-Modena, and wife of H. R. H. Prince Louis of Bavaria. Of her genealogical right to the throne of England, Scotland, and Ireland, as the representative of the senior female line of the House of STUART, the male line having become extinct on the death of Cardinal YORK, there is no doubt whatever. Not until the whole issue of CHARLES L is exhausted has the issue of the daughter of JAMES I., that is to say, the Hanoverian dynasty, any claim to the throne by right of birth.

Is this a purely academical question, or are there actually Englishmen who hold Queen Victoria to be a usurper; as much a usurper, for example, as was HENRY VI., who was deposed on the express ground that the house of Lancaster, which he represented, had no title to the Crown by right of birth? It is usually supposed that the English and Scotch Jacobites disappeared as a party on the death of the Cardinal Duke of York, a grandson of James II. and younger brother of CHARLES EDWARD, commonly known as the Young Pretender So far as the name, indeed, is concerned there is no sense in retaining it, for Jacobus means James, and James II. is dynastically dead, his issue being exhausted. The principle of legitimism, however, has survived the extinction of JAMES IL's family. and finds itself, as we have seen, incarnated in a descendant of CHARLES I. so that the English and Scotch legitimists might properly describe themselves as Carlists. But that word is associated with the adherents of the Spanish pretender; consequently those who believe that the Crown of England and Scotland ought to descend in accordance with the laws of primogeniture prefer to term themselves Legitimists. Of these there are enough to maintain a party organization and to publish a Legitimist Kalendar, in which are set forth the grounds of the Archduchess Mary's claims to the English throne, and also the original weakness of the Parliamentary title, upon which Queen VICTORIA relies. The facts relating to the latter subject are generally overlooked, and for that reason they are recalled in the current number of the Nineteenth Century by the Marquis DE RUVIGNY and Mr. CRAN-STOUN METCALFE, who are accredited spokesmen of the English Jacobite or Car-

It is well known that the claim of the Prince and Princess of ORANGE to reign over England, Scotland, and Ireland as King WILLIAM and Queen MARY was based exclusively upon an act of an irreg ular "Convention" Parliament which met at Westminster on Jan. 22, 1689. Even if this so-called Parliament had not been tainted with irregularity, it is very doubtful whether it had power to change the succession to the Crown. HALLAM points out, in his Constitutional History, that only eight years before the nation had declared, by its representatives, the incompetency of a full Parliament, even with a King at its head, to alter the lineal force of succession. No Whig even had then dared to assert the doctrine that, not only a King, but an entire royal family, might be set aside for public convenience. How much less, then, had an illegal convention, assembled at the bidding of a foreign invader, a right to dispose of the Crown?" Even this illegal convention, which was surrounded by Dutch guards, showed itself extremely reluctant to declare the throne vacant, and, therefore, open to the Prince and Princess of ORANGE. The House of Lords refused to say that King JAMES II. had "abdicated" the government, and substituted the word "deserted," and they proceeded to omit, by a majority of fourteen, the vital clause in the Commons' resolution, namely, that "the throne was thereby vacant." Then it was that WILLIAM, seeing the Crown about to slip from his grasp, sent for divers political chiefs and informed them that he would not consent to be Regerft, and bade them come to some decision at once. Coerced by the fear of a civil war

might seize the Crown if it were not offered. to him, the Lords gave way, and, by a majority of just fifteen, decided that the throne was vacant and that the Prince and Princess of ORANGE should be de-

could not make WILLIAMS lawful King. neither could the Parliament of 1701 be a lawful Parliament, since, to make a Parliament lawful, there must be a King, as well as a House of Lords and a House of Commons. Yet Queen VICTORIA's title to rule rests on the so-called Act of Settlement, passed by Parliament in 1701, whereby the succession to the Crown was settled on the Electress Sophia of Hanover (the daughter of ELIZABETH, the Electress Palatine, who was a daughter of JAMES I.) and her heirs, to the exclusion of all the descendants of CHARLES I. So far was this Act of Settlement, from being popular, that it was only passed in the Commons by a majority of one. The Abjuration Act of the same year, requiring all persons holding office to abjure the "pretended Prince of WALES," was, also, violently opposed, and only carried in the Commons by a majority of one. These facts undoubtedly bring home the truth that the Parliamentary vote, by which, alone, the title of the Hanoverian dynasty was obtained, was, in no sense, a vote indubitably representative of the will of the people. On all hands it is admitted that the Hanoverian dynasty has no title on the ground of heredity, but it rests its claim upon the Parliamentary majority of one, just mentioned, affirming that the voice of the people, although uttered with so much hesitation, is, nevertheless, the voice of God. It is evident that modern British governments do not discover any divine warrant in a majority of one, for they are wont to resign when their ma jority even approaches such a point. The surviving English Legitimists contend that the Parliamentary majority in 1701, even had it been more substantial, would not have represented popular sentiment which was still strongly Tory; that plebiscite would have then recalled and reinstated James II.: and that, in fine, the majority of one by which the Act of Settlement was passed is a sufficient justification for all and any Jacobite risings. Not only, in a word, has the Hanoverlan dynasty no divine right to rule, but it has no Parliamentary right

worth considering. It will hardly be denied by any student of history that the views of the English Legitimists, as here set forth, are theoretically plausible, and that, from an abstract point of view, their advocates should not be denounced as "idiots" or "lunatics." Impracticable persons, on the other hand, they certainly must be deemed, for the reason that they seem unable to recognize facts as they are. Granted that the Act of Settlement was only carried by a majority of one; granted that even this majority did not represent the will of the people at the time; the fact remains that the act was carried, and has been law for 196 years, The house of STUART has gone forever, and the house of HANOVER has come to stay. This fact, although a few English Legitimists shut their eyes to it, seems to be obvious enough to the rightful heir by right of birth, the Archduchess MARY, for this very year her son, Prince RUPERT of Bavaria, the alleged representative of the dejure sovereign of the United Kingdom, visited the Court of St. James's to con gratulate the de facto sovereign on having reigned so long.

Women Merchants.

Besides the several thousands of out-oftown business men who within the past few weeks have been drawn to the Broadway headquarters of the Merchants' Association of New York, and who have registered their names upon the association's books, more than one hundred out-of-town business women have been drawn there. These women merchants had the same purpose as the men merchants in coming to the city: they came to buy supplies of chantable goods for the fall trade, to be sold at the places in which they live. They were non-resident members of the association; they came here as members of its ex cursion parties; they were entitled to the privileges of its headquarters; and they took advantage of the reduced rates of travel which the railroad companies had granted for the season to visiting merchants. "It is very easy," said one of them who had come here all the way from the Stubtoe State, "to make the trip from

Butte to New York." It appeared by the registry books that most of these women were from the Western States, but a number of them were from other parts of the country. It was learned that some of them were in business for themselves, and came to buy at wholesale for their own stores, while others were buyers for mercantile houses which have confidence in their knowledge and judgment. Some of them while here placed large orders with wholesale and commission houses, and there are experienced salesmen for large New York firms who say that shrewder traders were never seen in this part of the country. They were quick in their understanding, careful in their inspection, close in their bargaining, and rigidly practical in all their ways. They seemed to know all about material and quality and manufacture, as well as about

cost, terms of sale, rebates, and credit. They came here to procure such goods and wares as are needed in many lines of business. It is probable that most of them came to buy millinery goods, laces and embroideries, fancy goods, silks and velvets, women's hats, hosiery and gaiters, cloaks and suits, as also cooking utensils, upholstery ware, and dry goods, Plenty of women possess expert knowledge of such articles as these, along with the fine taste required for the selection of the best of them, in such manner as to meet the de mands of ever-changing fashion. Intelligent women know well that New York is the right place in which to procure them, all the varieties of them. This is the place of their manufacture; this is the storehouse to which they are brought from other places; this is the market for people who

would purchase them. We guess that the American business women here spoken of are about as "levelheaded" as are lots of our successful business men. We guess also that those of them who have recently been here for the fall trade by invitation of the Merchants' Association of New York are among the shrewdest in the country. It was a wise determination of this association to make no discrimination between men merchants and women merchants as non-resident members.

Women who desire to become lawyers or preachers or doctors often complain of the obstacles that are put in their way by the man members of these professions. But there is a clear course for those women who desire to enter into the mercantile busi-

ness. There are hundreds of women who own or manage business houses or profitable shops in New York,

The Bicycle in the Army.

The detailed report recently received at the War Department from Second Lieut, JAMES A. Moss, Twenty-fifth Infantry, U. S. A., on the military bicycle expedition from Fort Missoula, Mont., to St. Louis, constitutes a strong recommendation of the wheel's use in actual warfare. The company consisted of twenty enlisted men and a surgeon, commanded by Lieut. Moss, and the distance covered was 1,900 miles. "Under favorable conditions," says the report, "the bicycle is invaluable for courier work, scouting duty, road patrolling, rapid reconnoissance," &c.

Mr. Moss believes, however, that the wheel could be used to the best advantage as an auxiliary to the regular companies of infantry and cavalry. Its much greater speed, for example, would enable a small number of men to ride ahead of the main force, take possession of strategic points, and hold them until the arrival of reinforcements. Compared with the horse the wheel is found to be not only faster on good roads, but much more noiseless, and not nearly as conspicuous. It requires little care, no food, and may be hidden easily from view.

The bicycle ambulance was not included in the Lieutenant's outfit, the report stating that "the carrying of the sick would have been a very serious question but for the railroads." Bicycle ambulances may be had, and there appears to be no reason why they should not be serviceable in a military bicycle company.

But bad weather and rough roads are the wheel's bitter enemies, and when those conditions are encountered the horse is superior. Therefore, the report declares that the very thought of the bicycle doing away with the cavalry altogether is ludirous." It would, of course, be a comparatively easy matter in time of war for the enemy to obstruct a pass or a roadway in a manner to effectively impede the wheelmen's progress, at least for several minutes. during which time the unfortunate pedallers might be overpowered. An illustration of this was afforded during the recent military manosuvres in the north of France. A corps of bicyclists set out for a given point to make an observation, their feet moving with military precision and their faces bespeaking perfect and sublime assurance of victory. But it happened that the officer in charge of a company of infantry some miles away detected the cyclists through his field glass and conspired to capture them. The infantry concealed themselves and allowed the wheelmen to pass. They afterward threw some heavy logs across the road, waited for the gallant "bikers" to return, and captured the entire corps.

As no one has yet devised a bleycle that will leap over fences, 'tis difficult to see how, under the circumstances the predicament of the French wheelers could have been avoided. But a fuller understanding of what the wheel may and may not be re lied on to do safely in military work would doubtless preclude the danger of it employed unwisely.

The Low-Tammany Combination.

At this moment the mind of Tammany Hall is racked with the task of devising some way of escape from the Chicago platform, and of enabling the Democratic canvass to be concerned with municipal issues only. At this moment, also, the Citizens' Union and Mr. SETH Low are denouncing as enemies of good government those who won't support him on a platform of nonpartisanship and municipal issues only.

Mr. Low's effort to excite for himself the anti-Tammany sentiment by describing Tammany's possible success as a "stinging shame," is false pretense. His purepersonal canvass on the lines that Tammany longs to make her own is worth more to Tammany than if he had penly led his followers into the D cratic camp to the music of a brass band.

Mr. PINGREE will take a shy himself at the

A most undignified and unfortunate description of the purpose of one of the most deep-re volving and frequent-revolving statesmen and friends of man in Michigan. The Hon. POTATO PINGREE may be on view in 1900 as the champion of three-cent fares, the dynamiter of ctopuses, and the scourge of corporations; and if his fellow citizens should soize him and force him to become a candidate for President, he would submit to the patriotic violence with meekness, but the notion of his "taking a shy at the Presidency" s calculated to irritate his sensitive spirit. It is his happiness to be useful to his fellow men. and if honors come to him as a reward of his self-sacrificing labor he will take them as a ecessary part of his duty.

The Hon, WHEELER H. PECKHAM longs or "a very vigorous campaign, most competently conducted," by the Citizens' Union. He should look at the Hon. JAMES B. REYNOLDS, the Hon. JOHN C. CLARK, the Hon. JOHN B. Aren't they sufficiently vigorous! Aren't they men with executive ability enough to execute anything they take in hand! When they once get their force of typewriters at work copying out all the names in the New York and Brooklyn direcories, see what a new vigor they will breathe into the Low canvass. As for their conduct and competency, three more senseless and fit men to conduct a movement so deftly that it refuses to move cannot be found. Mr. PECKHAM despairs too quickly. The C. U. concern is being vigorously conducted away into the Ewigkeit amid the sound of an unusual amount of music.

articles Required by the State Militia Must Be Purchased of the State Prisons.

ALBANY, Sept. 25 .- Attorney-General Hanock has written an opinion in which he holds that the Adjutant-General's office and the State militia must purchase all articles required for the use of the militia or the Adjutant-General's office from the State Prison Commission, when such articles are manufactured in the prisons. If the rison Commission shall certify that the arti-les required cannot be furnished, the same may be purchased elsewhere, but otherwise no claim or such supplies can be sudited or paid by the

The Gratification of a Country Parson TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your editorial,

'Is There a Santa Claus?" cut from THE SUS of Sept. SI, is posted conspicuously in my study. It is as re freshing as a poem of Burns, as invigorating as a cold wave during a hot speil. It is reassuring when you, amid serious discussion of social and financial nomics, politics, and the Mayoralty of Greater New York, can turn saids to write such editorials. Therefore, "Graftas this ago ab imo pectore." I am reinforced and strengthened.

May I say that your utterance, in re. strengthens my confidence as strong dash of personal love. That flash of self-revelation contained in the editor above mentioned is worth very much to me and to others who are firm believers in Santa Claus, lenigh and delightful saint, and in the assured reality of many things which we can neither see, hear, nor touch.

ELEMBURST, Sept. 23. nomics, politics, and the Mayoralty of Greater New

From the Eunowan Democrat and Northeast Cool-gardie Adv riteer.

Eembers of the local cycling club are reminded that an important meeting will be held on Monday

BLASTING ON A BIG SCALE.

Washington Point, a Mistoric Spot on the Pallandes, to Go.

Washington Point, one of the old landmarks of the Palisades of the Hudson, about four miles north of the Fort Lee ferry in New Jersey, was partially blown away yesterday afternoon, and preparations are being made to finish the work within the next three months, The blasting is being done by Carpenter Bros., operators of a number of large stone crushers, who recently purchased a pallsade frontage of 1,000 feet with a depth of 800 feet, intending to send the rock gradually in enormous quantitles, and reduce it with the crushers to a size suitable for the macadamizing of roads.

The blast which was made vesterday afternoon dislodged about 80,000 tons of rock by the explo sion of 2,600 pounds of dynamite. It was one of the smallest of the blasts that have been made, taking up the extreme end of the point, in order that the next shot may be sufficiently heavy to rend the entire point from its base. Prep arations for this blast will begin on Monday. and Mr. Carpenter hopes that the heavy biast may be made before Christmas.

In the past it has been the custom of stone crushing concerns to blow the rock from the Palisades in small quantities, beginning at the top and gradually working toward the bot-tom. Washington Point, however, reaches a height of 455 feet, and the sheer drop from top to bottom made this impossible. As a result, t was decided that the rock should be broken in masses of from 100,000 to 700,000 tons.

The dynamite, in quantities of from a ton and half to seven tous, is buried a hundred feet under the top surface and from thirty to fifty feet from the side of the palisade. A tunnel is excavated to the point where the dynamite is to be placed, and a shaft five feet square is sunk

excavated to the point where the dynamite is to be placed, and a shaft five feet square is sunk to a depth sufficient to place the explosive. After the cartridges have been fused and the electric wires connected the shaft is scaled with coment and the tunnel choked with stone and mortar. The electric battery is placed on the summit of the Palisades and men are despatched indifferent directions to warn bicyclers and drivers of vehicles to keep at a distance. Yesterday, however, there was no necessity for this. The boss biaster, Hugh Rillev, announced that the current would be turned on at 5 o'clock. He was stationed thirty feet from the brink of the point with the battery, and, when the word was given, touched the button. A violent vibration of the ground, accompanied by a low rumble, was immediately followed by the mass of rock becoming detached. It wavered for a moment; so long, in fact, that it was thought that the "shot" had falled, and then, toppling over, crashed to the shore of the Hudson. Its descent was like that of a glacier, sliding to the base of the Palisades, and breaking into hundreds of pieces before reaching the bottom. Some of the larger pieces were thought to weigh from 3,000 to 4,000 tons.

Before the large mass of rock toppled toward the river not a rock of any size was disturbed by the explosion, and one could stand twenty feet from the tunnel without incurring danger. The mass of rock which was detached was 20x30x200 feet, and was estimated to weigh nearly 125,000 tons.

The blast which will be made in December will be one of the heaviest ever attempted and certainly the heaviest ever attempted and certainly the heaviest ever attempted on the Hudson. It is calculated that the charge of 12,000 pounds of dynamite which will be used will dislodge 600,000 tons of rock. The mass of rock to be blown out is 90x120 feet on the summit and atunnel will be excavated to a length of fifty feet, where the shaft or magazine will be sunk.

e sunk.

The destruction of Washington Point wipes
The destruction of washington Points of interest on the The destruction of Washington Point wipes out one of the historic points of interest on the Hudson. Tradition has it that it was here that Washington watched the deportation of the American Army after it had crossed the Hudson its retreat from Fort Washington, and the precipitous path up which Washington is said to have climbed has been kept open for many years by the people living in the vicinity. The point was purchased by Carpenter Bros. about three years ago. three years ago.

New York and the Canal.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There is an impression among the people of California that New York does not sufficiently appreciate the importance to herself of the construction of the Nicaragua Canal. In this State intelligent public opinion has been thoroughly instructed regarding the benefits of the waterway, and it is quite natural for those who are vitally interested to look for the same manifestations of interest in others who will share equally in the benefits. As the press of this coast have kept the subject of an isthmian canal constantly be fore their readers, it might seem that in the metropolis of the continent, which will certainly be the focus of every commercial advantage, we could look for as active a concern. The im pression prevailing here may be error, but there are doubtless some branches of the question that have not been made any too prominent in Eastern discussion.

Has it been emphasized to the commercial in terests of New York that the opening of the Nicaragua Canal brings that city nearer to one third of the population of the earth than is Liverpool! The population of China, Japan, Corea, Australia and the Pacific islands have a nearer | Laura and Mary Jay. water route to Liverpool, Havre, and Hambu

Australia and the Pacific islands have a nearer water route to Liverpool, Havre, and Hamburg than to New York. With the Nicaragua Canal constructed the advantage would be reversed and the 450,000,000 inhabitants of those countries would become tributary to the commercial metropolis of the New World instead of remaining adjuncts of European ports. I will not attempt to consider in this connection the fact that the canal will also move New York within the commercial radius of Liverpool and London for Pacific American points of shipment, though this is a branch of the subject that deserves the closest consideration.

If distance is a factor in trade, and if the trade of the millions of the Orient, for which nations struggled and warred long before the birth of the United States, is worth possessing, then will New York be the chief beneficiery of the canal. The trade of the Pacific is developing remarkably and the interchange of products between this country and those named is rapidly increasing. While New York is on the Atlantic and faces Europe, is it not at least desirable to have a leverage of a thousand miles over European ports in water route to the populous countries of eastern Asia! Never before has an opportunity been offered to one of the great cities of the world to move a third of the entire population of the earth 11,000 m.les nearer to it, and, at the same time, removing rival cities relatively a thousand miles further away. And how small is the cost in comparison to the gain I Manchester has paid half as much to get dramage into the Missistipul. Yet all that New York need do to secure this advantage over Europels to ioin with the States of the South and of the Pacific coast in demanding of Congress early attention to this all-important subject. Will she do it! California is anxious, impatient from long waiting. May she now be executed the security of the work toward this great enterprise is a matter of

pectant!
The attitude of the press of the city of New York toward this creat enterprise is a matter of interest to the whole country because it is recognized that the strictly local press of the other parts of the Union are largely guided by the metropolitan journals in questions of national enterprise, and especially those of a commercial nature. Respectfully.

STOCKTON, Cal., Sept. 8, 1897.

Low, the Auglomaniac, vs. Tracy, the Amer-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: A few years ago, upon the occasion of the annual Fourth of July celebration in London, Seth Low, who was one of the guests, was selected to respond to the the guests, was selected to respond to the toast of the President of the United Stat ; speech outrivalled the most indecent exhibition of servility ever displayed by his ideal and counterpart, the Angl maniac Bayard. For the one al-lusion to the Chief Executive of his country he giorified a dozen times the Queen, her immortal reign, race, and nation. He practically abandoned the subject of his toast, and branched out into an extrava-gant eulogy of Great Britain, her laws, customs, and

ject of his tosst, and branched out into an extravagant entory of Great Britain, her laws, customs, and
institutions.

It was at this dinner our late ambassador to
France, Mr. Runts, distinguished himself for all time
by severely commenting upon the base sycophancy
to British ideas which characterized the remarks of
Bayard, Low, of how prous come, and redes med the
Atteriors name from recrused by a speech of pairoth ferror. We are all faint lar with the ignorhie
attitude occupied by Mr. Low upon the question of
the British arbitration treaty. He was the chief
monthpleve of the contemptible group of allered
scadenors and college professors, all exponents of
Cleveland's exucunit these, who definanted he pasage of that infamous measure. Yes he would have
ratified it where yet the lift wherewith these with
was dry, direct from the hands of Paumerfote and
Olney, and without any attempt to safeguard the
rights and alterities of our country. Later he presided at a meeting in Cooper Union where the United
States benate was villing by a handful of Mugwumps,
whose unparticles and disopal sentiments must with
the severe condemnation of their sudience.

It is united stoper to revall as tills time that Gen.
Beniamin F. Tracy was one—if the lifest to denounce
the British treats and so others show that by its articles the Mource describe the lifest to denounce
the British treats and so others allow that by its articles the Mource describe the life was imperil ed, and
that our right to enforce it would be submitted to the
judgment of a European manach. His masterix exposure of the covert provisions and limitations as
well as the cunning subterfuges of that notorious, and
treachierous compact, and also his splendid scribes
and loyality to our new navy, place all particle Amerfoans ander an everlasting debt of graitinge to Benjamin F. Tracy. Particularly should those who are
banded degether to resist the eseroschiment of English tiles and combat the hisdious designs of Great
in the summer of surrender and nat

Miss Leary's large dinner to Mrs. Astor was the closing banquet of the Newport season, Among the guests, who numbered over forty, were all the leaders of fashion still in Newport and as many prominent men as golf tourns ments, polo playing, and other outdoor sports had left among the cottagers. Dr. Denew, James V. Parker, James J. Van Alen, Harry Lenr, and

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

Harry Eldridge were the only eligibles, how-ever, who could be mustered for the occasion, but as Miss Terry, Miss Van Alen, and Miss Gibert were the sole representatives of unmarried belies, the deficiency was not painfully felt, Mrs. Frederick Vanderbilt is doing her usual go d work in entertaining the Society of King s Daughters, whom, by the way, she seems greatly to prefer to the daughters and sisters among

whom she legitimately belongs. In company with Mrs. Lorillard Spencer she has received at Rough Point both the members of the circle in which she is enrolled, and those of the Nina Circle, of which Mrs. Spencer is President. All the work left undone during the rush of the Newport season has been run off during the last week, as Oct. 1 is the date when the holiday seems to end, and those who make any pretence of having work to do return to give it an unwilling glance and to fold their idle hands out of sight. Bishop Potter, for instance, is util tring every breath of the autumn breezes to get

all the horseback riding possible, and is out every day cantering over the country roads. The Bishop has been all his life a horseman, and he finds the bicycle a poor substitute for his sturdy steed. Mrs. Calvin S. Brice is entertaining her sisters from Ohio, Mrs. Orr and Mrs. Richards, and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, while her husband has been winning bonors as polo, is making life pleasant for her young brothers, Alfred and Reginald Vanderbilt, who have just returned from Switzerland, where they spent the summer with their father. Meanwhile the Brooklyn polo ground on Tues-

day was surrounded by smart traps and vehicles, and its usually provincial aspect transformed into a parterre of beauty and fashion. Of course, the Meadowbrooks were winning, or the flower of the Hempstead and Westbury colony, such as Mrs. August Belmont, Mrs. Fred Schenck, Mrs. Sidney Dilion Ripley, Mrs. Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., Mrs. Egerton Winthrop, Jr., and Mrs. Albert Stevens, would not have been so conspicuously to the fore, while the Westchester contingent, although represented by almost as many charming women, had a fagged and weary look, which generally follows defeat. The play was magnificent from start to finish. Stevens and Waterbury making some brilliant dashes for the Westchesters. They were, nevertheless, not a match for the redoubtable Meadowbrooks, and, moreover, they were handicapped by tired and inferior ponies. The tournament was a glorious sight, however, and the eight or ten thousand spectators felt that in the contest for the Astor Cup championship they had witnessed the finest polo ever played in this country.

talking of nothing but polo, the annual golf tournament of the Tuxedo Club has been absorbing the interest of some of the most prominent of the old Meadowbrook champions. Forhall Keene, who, with Thomas Hitchcock, Jr., has been the crack in the Meadowbrook team of polo players, has forsaken that sport and cast in his lot with the golfers, among whom he will probably soon stand as high as he did but a short time since on the pole ground. The golf tournament at Tuxedo was full of surprises, Mr. Keene beating Dr. Rushmore in a very spirited and hotly contested game. Another surprising ups t was the defeat of Travis of Oakland by R. P. Huntingdon, who made the unusual score of 6 up and 5 to go.

In Lenox, where the Golf Club is the fashionable meeting place for those who do not play as well as for those who do, the week at the pioturesque links, with the exception of the two days given up to the equinoctial gale, has been a bright and pleasant one. The play, of course, has been good. It always is when all star players are assembled, and not only the cracks won laurels but those who claimed only second place did so well that to watch their play was almost as satisfactory as to follow the prize winners around the links. Every day the clubhouse has been crowded, and Miss Lila Sloane, Miss Evelyn Sloane, Miss Edith Barnes, Miss Alice Duer, Miss Louise Barlow, Miss Juliana Cutting, Miss Mand Curtiss, and the Misses Stokes have been among those who have been most enthusiastic in their interest and attention. Lenox will be defrauded of her autumn

vedding this year, as it has been decided that Mr. Pierre Jay and Miss Louise Barlow are to be married in St. George's Church in this city in the early party of November. Miss Barlow's bridesmaids are to be her cousins, the Misses Mildred and Gertrude Minturn; Miss Cornelle Rabb, Miss Henrietta Sargent, and the Misses

The Baroness Halkett, who is making a visit o her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes, at Shadowhook, has been the occasion for many teas and dinners, as well as for a large reception given by Mrs. Stokes. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barclay will bring a large party from Southampton on their coach next week, and Bonnie Brae " will then be opened for a month or two. Mr. Van Alen is also expected from Newport with his four-in-hand, but as he has no residence in Lenox, his visit is likely to be brief. The marriage of Mr. Leon d'Orémieulx and Miss Granbery of Tarrytown came in the nature of a surprise to all his old friends and acquaintances. Mr. d'Orémieulx had dropped very much out of society's whirl during the last few years, but no one ever dreamed that he was on matrimonial thoughts intent, or that he was about to spring a wife upon the world of whom it had had no previous knowledge. Those who are acquainted with the lady of his choice, however, pronounce her to be a very charming per son, with a handsome fortune, so that Mr. d'Orémieulx has reason to expect the warm

The latest announced engagement is that of Miss Louise Griswold, daughter of the late George Griswold, to Mr. de Raasleff, a German gentleman engaged in business in this city. It is early yet to speculate upon the gayeties

congratulations of his friends.

of the coming winter, but those who have been in town since the days of September have had little else to do than to think over the dates of balls and to figure out the probable number of private dinners, teas, and subscriptio s. while the gentlemen and ladies who are expected to act as hosts and hostesses at these problematical functions are riding to bounds on Long Island or golfing and bicycling in their beautiful homes on the Hudson. Two assemblies have been are ranged for by nearly the same committee of ladies who engineered them so admirably last year. Their dates will be Dec. 16 and Feb. 3, and they are to be held at the new Astoria ballroom. The Tuesday evening dances, which have always been popular and admirably conducted, will be held on Jan. 11 and Feb. 22. The latter, being Washington's Birthday and also Mardi Gras, will probably be to the last degree a holiday-m king ball.

Many other dances, such as Mrs. Church's Mrs. Hall's, the Cinderellas, de Coverleys, and Fortnightlys, fill in the intermediate dates, and promise music, dancing, and a good time for all the various sets of metropolitan belies and beaux who go to make up the circles with a circles of society. The revival of the Patriar has for even a single dance is doubtful. The label of organization is too great, and there is no all to undertake it.

The Hudson River colony is drawing together again for its autumn house parties, coacher a drives, and golfing excitements, for some of the best golf links in the country are to be found at gentlemen's places on the Hudson and the an thusiasni of play there is very great. Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills left Newport earlier than usual to open their new mansion at Stantaburg. which is one of the largest and west unlique in the river. It stands on the site of the old lay ingston manor house, which Mrs. Mills, from a natural feeling of reverence for the dwo lost place of her fore athers, has insisted upon serving as the centre of the new house. William quits as large as the central but dog have been added at each side. Its and can be imagined, as it contains ninety his rooms, and is only two stories in height. One of its most original features is a large un ered "deck," overlooking the river, which is . proached by marble staircases.